



WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Derwen Foundation School: Proposal to change from a foundation primary school to a community school.

Proposed implementation date 1st September 2027.

PART A. INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to change the category of Derwen Foundation School, Higher Kinnerton, from a foundation primary school to a community primary school from 1 September 2027, subject to consultation and the necessary approvals. The consultation document describes the foundation school closing on 31 August 2027 and the community school opening the following day, with education continuing at the existing site.

The school would continue to provide English-medium education for children aged 3–11. Its site, pupil capacity and nursery capacity would remain unchanged. The proposal concerns the school's legal category and associated responsibilities; it does not propose conversion to Welsh-medium education or relocation of pupils.

This assessment supplements the statutory consultation document. It considers effects on Welsh learning, opportunities to use Welsh, access to Welsh-medium education and the treatment of Welsh in consultation and implementation. The overall anticipated impact is neutral, with opportunities for positive effects if improvement actions are agreed and delivered. The assessment will be updated following consultation.

This document supplements the Statutory Consultation document which consultees should consider to fully participate in the consultation process.

The statutory consultation will be published on **22nd October 2026**, and will end **11:59pm** on **3rd December 2026**. This allows at least 42 days for responses to be received, with at least 20 of these being school days.

Any figures, statistics and material referenced in this document are the most accurate available at the time of preparation and publication.

Impact Assessments are working documents which will be updated following information and feedback from the consultation process.

PART B. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

Under the Welsh Language standards policy consultation documents (standard numbers 88 – 92) must consider the impact of a policy decision on the Welsh Language and an assessment as to their effect on the Welsh Language, this duty is not limited to proposals in respect of Welsh Language schools, but all maintained schools, regardless of their language category. This is also now reflected in the new School Organisation Code 2026, and given the importance of the Education sector in creating new Welsh speakers, planning and development of *all* school organisation proposals should reflect the Cymraeg 2050 ambitions and support the targets within the local authority's WESP.

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) includes the requirements of a Welsh Language impact assessment as defined in the School Organisation Code 2026.

PART C. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Under the NEW school Organisation Code 2026 paragraph. 1.10 states that “*The case prepared by those bringing forward proposals **must** show the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language. A Welsh Language impact assessment (WLIA) **must** be undertaken for all proposals.*”

Our consultation document invites views on this proposal, as part of the consultation questions the Governing Board is also seeking your views on how consultees feel the proposal may impact on the Welsh Language and any potential development in this area.

In the survey we would like to know your views on the effects that this proposal will have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- opportunities for people to use Welsh; and
- treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be ...?

1. Increasing the number of people speaking or learning Cymraeg.
2. Using Welsh services
3. Opportunities to use Welsh socially.
4. Welsh speaking communities.
5. Treating Welsh equal to English.
6. How could we increase positive effects, or reduce negative effects?

Impact assessments are working documents and may be updated throughout the statutory process. Feedback from consultees during the consultation period will be used to further inform the impact assessments.

The main aim of the policy making standards is to ensure that organisations give conscientious consideration to the Welsh language when they decide how they will carry out their public duties.

<https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/support-resources/public-organisations/policy-decisions>

Pupils will receive age-appropriate information and opportunities to contribute, with language and accessibility support where needed. Welsh language feedback will be considered in the consultation report and this assessment revised accordingly.

Requests to receive all documents relating to the consultation in Welsh can be made to the school either by calling 01244 660291, emailing kimail@hwbcymru.net or visiting the school, Ysgol Derwen, Main Road, Higher Kinnerton, Flintshire, Wales, CH4 9AJ.

PART D. THE CYMRAEG 2050 STRATEGY

Cymraeg 2050 sets the national ambition of one million Welsh speakers by 2050. Its themes concern increasing speakers, increasing use and creating conditions that support the language. For Ysgol Derwen, relevant opportunities include stronger Welsh learning, more everyday use and support for staff and families.

Retaining an English-medium school does not itself increase Welsh-medium places. Any contribution to the strategy would depend on the quality and continuity of Welsh provision and the specific actions taken, rather than the change of category alone.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>

PART E. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-2032

Flintshire's approved WESP sets out the Council's approach to improving Welsh-medium education and Welsh learning. It includes opportunities to use Welsh in different school contexts, workforce development, linguistic opportunities for learners with additional learning needs and support for progression between stages of education.

The proposal would retain Ysgol Derwen's language medium and capacity. It would not directly expand or reduce Welsh-medium provision. Its main potential contribution is through improved Welsh learning and use within an English-medium school, alongside information about Welsh-medium choices.

The WESP 2022-2032 can be found here:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/Welsh-in-Education/Flintshire-WELSH-IN-EDUCATION-STRATEGIC-PLAN-2022-2032.pdf>

PART F. THE LDP (TAN 20) AND AREAS OF LINGUISTIC SENSITIVITY

Technical Advice Note 20 concerns consideration of Welsh in development plans and planning applications. No new school site, housing scheme or building project is proposed as part of Ysgol Derwen's category change. Its planning relevance is therefore contextual; this assessment does not replace any language assessment required for a future development.

PART G. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION IN FLINTSHIRE

The WESP identifies Welsh-medium primary provision at Ysgol Glanrafon, Ysgol Terrig, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Ysgol Mornant and Ysgol Croes Atti, and secondary provision at Ysgol Maes Garmon. Families should receive current Council advice about available places, school locations, immersion support and transport eligibility.

No transfer of Ysgol Derwen pupils to another school is proposed. No direct change to Welsh-medium school capacity or access is anticipated. The nearest suitable Welsh-medium option will depend on the child's age, address and available places; it should not be inferred from proximity alone.

PART H. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION INVESTMENT

Flintshire's WESP describes investment in its Welsh-medium school estate and future development of provision. These projects provide county-wide context. They are separate from the Ysgol Derwen proposal, which does not include a new building, Welsh-medium unit or capital allocation for language provision.

PART I. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESP

The school should agree a manageable set of Welsh language actions within its improvement plan and implementation arrangements. Proposed actions are set out below; they require confirmation by school leaders and the governing body.

I.1. Welsh Language Provision at Ysgol Derwen

The school's 2025–2026 prospectus describes Welsh teaching for all pupils, with an initial emphasis on speaking and increasing attention to reading and writing. It also describes incidental Welsh and cultural activities and identifies a Ciriw Cymraeg among its pupil groups.

Estyn's February 2026 inspection found regular Welsh sessions and enjoyment of Welsh songs among the youngest pupils. However, development of Welsh speaking skills was inconsistent as pupils progressed, and staff gave insufficient emphasis to promoting Welsh and teaching Welsh history and culture. Recommendation R2 calls for improvement in these areas.

Welsh is part of the school development plan for the 2026/27 academic year with the aim of increasing pupils' speaking skills and also to further promote the development of Welsh culture and history across the school and the local community.

I.2. Additional Activities and Community Facilities for Welsh Learning

There is scope to strengthen everyday Welsh through pupil leadership, games, songs, assemblies and age-appropriate curriculum activities. The supervised village walks described by the school could incorporate Welsh vocabulary, local place names and aspects of Welsh heritage where relevant to learning objectives. These are proposed extensions to existing activities, rather than confirmed current practice.

Little Acorns operates on the school site. Its current language provision should be confirmed with the provider. Opportunities for shared resources or staff learning could be explored without assuming that childcare would become Welsh-medium or that additional staffing is available.

The school could explore age-appropriate activities and advice with the Council's Welsh language support services and relevant community partners. No new Welsh club, adult course, formal partnership or facility is assumed to be established by this proposal.

I.3. Profile of Welsh Speakers in Higher Kinnerton

The 2011 Census recorded that 11.5% of people in the Higher Kinnerton electoral ward could speak Welsh; this older ward-level figure provides historical context but should not be treated as a current measure of Welsh-language use in the village.

I.4. Well being of Future Generations Wales Act 2015

The Act provides a wider framework for long-term public-sector decisions, including the goal of a Wales with a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. For this proposal, relevant considerations include maintaining opportunities for future pupils, involving children and families, and making improvement actions sustainable.

Working with the Council and local partners could help the school integrate language development with curriculum, community and workforce planning. This assessment does not assume that changing category alone delivers the wider wellbeing goals.

I.5. Area LSOA Data on Deprivation with the Data on Welsh Speakers

No local statistical relationship between deprivation and Welsh language skills is asserted in this assessment. The practical priority is to identify and address barriers such as activity charges, travel, limited access to resources or families' confidence in Welsh. Pupils should be able to participate regardless of home language or financial circumstances.

PART J. IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

Criteria	Potential Impact
Impact on border schools and loss of pupils from the Welsh education system	Neutral Anticipated: The school would remain open on its current site as an English-medium community primary school. No relocation or compulsory transfer to an English school is proposed. No proposal-related loss of pupils from Welsh education is anticipated, although parental choices and admissions effects should be monitored.
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
- Explain continuity of education in Wales and the proposed admissions arrangements. - Consider any concerns about cross-border movement raised during consultation and reassess if evidence indicates an adverse effect	
Criteria	Potential Impact
Impact on the Welsh Medium schools in the areas affected by the proposal	Neutral anticipated: There is no proposed reduction or expansion of Welsh-medium places and no planned redistribution of Ysgol Derwen pupils. Changes to admissions administration

	should preserve clear information about Welsh-medium options.
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
• Provide current Council information about Welsh-medium choices and support routes. • Review any evidence of effects on neighbouring school demand with the Council.	
Criteria	Potential Impact
Impact on Welsh Language Provision and Standards at Ysgol Derwen	Neutral with potential positive effects: Continuity is expected because the language medium and site would remain unchanged. Positive effects would depend on delivery of the school's Welsh improvement actions, including its response to Estyn R2.
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
• Retain named leadership responsibility, resources and monitoring for Welsh throughout implementation. • Agree staff development and consistent teaching approaches, with specialist advice where available. • Monitor progression in Welsh speaking, reading and writing and pupils' understanding of Welsh history and culture.	
Criteria	Potential Impact
Opportunities to Use Welsh Socially and in the Community	Neutral with potential positive effects: Existing activities could continue. There is scope to increase informal Welsh use, but the proposal does not itself establish additional clubs, courses or Welsh-medium childcare.
• Confirm the current Criw Cymraeg offer and consider pupil-led daily language activities. • Explore achievable activities with Little Acorns and community partners, subject to their agreement. • Consider accessibility, cost and pupil feedback when planning additional opportunities.	
Criteria	Potential Impact
Welsh Language Opportunities for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs	Neutral subject to continuity of support: No change to the site or language medium is proposed. Individual language needs and opportunities should remain part of support planning; an English-medium setting should not be treated as removing those considerations.
• Review pupils' language needs and existing support with the ALNCo, families and relevant specialists. • Maintain suitable resources and support for Welsh learning and accessible participation. • Refer requests for Welsh-medium provision or support to the appropriate Council services.	

PART K. CONCLUSION

The anticipated direct Welsh language impact is neutral. Ysgol Derwen would continue at its existing site as an English-medium primary school, with no proposed loss of Welsh learning

opportunities or Welsh-medium places elsewhere. Positive effects are possible through deliberate improvements in provision, staff confidence and informal use of Welsh.

These opportunities should be translated into agreed actions, rather than attributed automatically to the category change. Implementation should preserve Welsh teaching, the school's response to Estyn R2 and equal consideration of Welsh consultation responses. The assessment should be reviewed following feedback and confirmation of the baseline and implementation arrangements.

PART L. Sources and Supporting Documents

Estyn Inspection report Ysgol Derwen February 2026, published 8 April 2026, pages 3–4 and 6. Crown copyright 2026. <https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2026/03/Inspection-report-Ysgol-Derwen-2026.pdf>

Ysgol Derwen School Prospectus 2025–2026, pages 5–7 and 26. https://spaces.schoolspider.co.uk/uploads/415/page/44251331_page_file.pdf?ofn=2025-26-school-prospectus.pdf

Flintshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022–2032.

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Welsh-Education-Strategic-Plan.aspx>

Welsh Government School Organisation Code. <https://www.gov.wales/school-organisation-code>

Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 Welsh language strategy. <https://www.gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy>

Welsh Government TAN 20 planning and the Welsh language. <https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-20-planning-and-welsh-language>

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Well-being of Future Generations Act overview. <https://futuregenerations.wales/discover/about-future-generations-commissioner/future-generations-act-2015/>